



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update

November 2005

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of 28 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a monthly update on HCDOP activities.

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - ORCA buoys north of the Hood Canal Bridge and at Hoodsport are now operational. This makes a total of three ORCAs monitoring marine conditions of the canal. This provides tremendous value to understanding the timing and extent of the ocean inputs into the canal. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - The wireless communication has been established for the Hoodsport ORCA (Dec.6) so the data (similar to Lynch Cove ORCA) will be established on the web shortly. A location for establishing the wireless communication is still being developed for the northern ORCA. Anyone with ideas/contacts for a northern, land-based, line-of-site communication site should contact Dan Hannafious (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - ISCO samplers are on loan from Ecology for stormwater sampling. Five samplers have been made available. Peter Steinberg is a UW grad student working with Mike Brett to assist in the deployment and operation of the samplers. The samplers are planned to be installed and operational in the field by the end of December. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - The Quality Assurance Project Plan for Year 1 Activities has been finalized. The document summarizes all data collection and model development activities underway by each of the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program cooperators. The document is available on the Department of Ecology web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0503114.html>. The publication will be added to the HCDOP web page in the next few weeks. Contact Mindy Roberts (mrob461@ecy.wa.gov) with any questions. (Roberts, ECY)
- *New information generated by projects*
 - The Data Management group of HCDOP-IAM continued meetings to exchange information and capabilities. Paladin met with members of the PRISM group at UW facilities on November 16 in Seattle. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Reviewed and provided comments (through John Cambalik) on Kitsap County's report on onsite sewage systems' contribution to a section of eastern Hood Canal's shoreline, and their study of comparing fecal coliform and nutrients before (and later, after) correction (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with Dave Christensen and Terry Hull on Hood Canal onsites project ideas for the upcoming year's Rehabilitation program (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with Dave C and Mary Knackstedt on education project ideas for this year's Rehabilitation program. (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Met with Tom Eaton (EPA), Keith Dublanica (Skokomish Tribe), and Doug Micheau, Emmett Dobey, (Mason County staff) and Dick Wallace (ECY) re: Hoodspout to Skokomish sewerage options, funding (and followed meeting with a memo to the Hood Canal state interagency team to share progress of the meeting) (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Worked with Dave Christensen on Rehabilitation program document to share with HCCC (board) and with Brad Ack, PSAT director. (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Participated in the discussion on the Rehabilitation program at the HCCC monthly meeting in Silverdale (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - Chaired HCDOP CG meeting; determined at the meeting in early November that a subcommittee of the coordinating group would meet to scope the design and funding needed for a more definitive nutrient study related to onsite sewage systems. A tentative date for a scoping meeting is planned for December 20, probably in the morning, in the PSAT offices in Olympia (Fagergren, PSAT)
 - The Department of Ecology awarded \$70,000 to Jefferson County in November so it can survey Hood Canal shorelines for septic systems that may be failing or delivering excessive nutrients to the canal. Similar efforts with state funding are in the works for Mason and Kitsap counties. (Baldi, ECY)

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - HCDOP-IAM was asked by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council to provide a science program update for their 2005 Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Award Conference. The conference was held at Alderbrook Resort on December 2 and attended by an audience of ~100. Presenters were Jan Newton-UW/APL, Mark Warner-UW/Ocean, Dan Hannafious-HCSEG, Allan Devol-UW/Ocean, Tony Paulson-USGS, Jeff Richey-UW/Ocean and Bill Simonds-USGS. They provided program information on dissolved oxygen status, marine data and modeling, stream inputs and terrestrial modeling, and status of biota studies.
 - The Hood Canal Environmental Achievement Awards Program is an annual event that honors those folks dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the Hood Canal. This year Laurie Usher (educator), Arpad Masley (master gardener), and Jan Newton (scientist) were recognized for their sphere of influence within Hood Canal.

- The Hood Canal Watershed Pledge and Shore Stewards shared a poster at the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Conference on December 2 at Alderbrook (Piper, HCWEN)
 - The Hood Canal Watershed Pledge follow up survey with participants is completed and results will be shared at the HCCC Conference (Piper, HCWEN)
 - Representatives of the HCDOP-IAM gave presentations at the American Water Resource Association (AWRA) national conference in Seattle on November 10. Jan Newton, Tony Paulson, and Dan Hannafious gave presentations in a session chaired by Dave Christensen. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Jan Newton was asked to give a talk to the Kitsap Rotary for their lecture series “Sound Advice” on Puget Sound on 9 November in Kingston. She included an overall introduction to oceanography and differences between Hood Canal and the Main Basin of Puget Sound. The audience was interested to know how low dissolved oxygen develops. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Comments/questions from public*
 - A HCCC Conference attendee mentioned that he was impressed by the large amount of organizational synergy and science activity surrounding the Dissolved Oxygen project. Several other similar comments have been received subsequently. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - The Hood Canal Watershed Pledge and Shore Stewards will be at an Open House on December 6 for the Hood Canal Improvement Club and WRIA 16 in Union (Piper, HCWEN)
 - On Thursday December 8, Shore Stewards is hosting its second workshop: “Planting Marine Shorelines.” Both Pledge members and Shore Stewards participants have been invited. The workshop is going to be at the Stillwaters Environmental Center in Kingston. (Piper, HCWEN)

Other News

- The Department of Health has completed the draft triennial report on the Lynch Cove area of Hood Canal and is recommending upgrading the western portion of the Belfair State Park beach from “prohibited” to “approved” for shellfish harvesting. For more information contact Debby Sargeant (360) 236-3320. (Hager, LHCWC)

Communications

- *Communications activities*
 - John Williams and Still Hope Productions produced a short video on the Dissolved Oxygen issue in Hood Canal. It is being reviewed and edited. The intent is for a release on the Public Broadcasting channel to fit a 30-minute time slot with two other video pieces on marine organisms. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - A HCDOP CG sub committee will meet on Dec. 13 to discuss communication activities. (Criss, PSAT)

- *Media coverage*

Hood Canal Heroes to Be Honored

Kitsap Sun

November 27, 2005

http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4270228,00.html

Hood Canal gets help breathing

The Olympian

November 21, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051121/NEWS05/51121020/1019>

Web site of the week**Hood Canal Coordinating Council**

The Olympian

November 21, 2005

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051121/NEWS05/51121023/1019>

Chesapeake Bay Clean Up Stalls for Lack of Funding

Environmental News Service

November 18, 2005

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/nov2005/2005-11-18-10.asp>

Innovative use for leftover salmon

By Gary Chittim / KING 5 News

November 14, 2005

HOODSPORT, Wash. - The Skokomish Indian Tribe has found a way to turn a problem into an asset and is getting awards for doing it.

Leftover salmon no longer contribute to Hood Canal's problems. The tribe is using the foundation of its culture to improve the Hood Canal ecosystem.

Tribal members make ends meet by selling the eggs and carcasses of chum salmon whose life cycle ends with their return to the hatchery.

Brokers buy many to sell to foreign buyers, but thousands are left over, and for decades those carcasses were taken to the middle of Hood Canal and dumped in to feed the crab and other bottom feeders.

"A couple years ago scientists came to us and told us that we were contributing to a huge problem," said Lalena Amiotte, Skokomish Environmental Program.

That problem is rapidly depleting oxygen level in Hood Canal water, reaching the critical stage with increasing so-called dead zones, where no oxygen is present and sea life is dying off.

Tribal leaders were shocked to learn that they might be making the problem worse and immediately banned the dumping.

Ever since then the tribe has been looking for a purpose of these leftover carcasses, and now they think they may have found one.

At the new Skokomish compost site, fishermen arrive to bring leftover, once-worthless carcasses. There they are ground up and mixed with wood chips and other natural debris.

"It's a high-grade fertilizer, organic fertilizer," said Amiotte.

This salmon compost is valuable. The tribe sells it to the state to help grow native plants on restoration projects along stream and river banks, and even roads, solving modern problems through centuries-old efforts.

The Skokomish compost program has earned the tribe an environmental achievement award from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council.